

# WAL MART STORES INC

## FORM 8-K (Current report filing)

Filed 11/04/04 for the Period Ending 11/04/01

Address	702 SOUTHWEST 8TH ST BENTONVILLE, AR 72716
Telephone	5012734000
CIK	0000104169
Symbol	WMT
SIC Code	5331 - Variety Stores
Industry	Retail (Department & Discount)
Sector	Services
Fiscal Year	01/31

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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

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**FORM 8-K**

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**CURRENT REPORT  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 or 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported):  
**November 4, 2004**

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**Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other  
Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation)

**001-06991**  
(Commission File  
Number)

**71-0415188**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**702 S.W. 8th Street**  
**Bentonville, Arkansas 72716**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:  
**(479) 273-4000**

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Conditions.**

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. is furnishing this current report on Form 8-K in order to furnish to the Securities and Exchange Commission a press release that we will issue on November 4, 2004, which press release may be deemed to disclose information regarding our results of operations for our fiscal quarter ended October 31, 2004. A copy of the press release being furnished is included herewith as Exhibit 99.1.

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Dated: November 4, 2004

WAL-MART STORES, INC.

By: /s/ Charles M. Holley, Jr.

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Name: Charles M. Holley, Jr.  
Title: Senior Vice President and  
Controller

Text of Press Release

# WAL-MART STORES, INC.

479/273-4314 • [www.walmartstores.com/news/](http://www.walmartstores.com/news/)*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***Investor Relations Contacts**

Investor Relations 479/273-8446

Jay Fitzsimmons 479/273-6445

Pauline Tureman 479/277-9558

**Media Relations Contact**

Gus Whitcomb 479/273-4314

## Wal-Mart Reports October Sales

BENTONVILLE, Ark., November 4, 2004 — Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. reported net sales for the four-week period ending October 29, 2004, of \$21.042 billion, an increase of 10.4 percent over the \$19.066 billion in the same four-week period in the prior year. Sales for the thirty-nine week period were \$203.045 billion, an increase of 11.4 percent over \$182.312 billion in the similar period in the prior year.

The Wal-Mart Division's sales for the four-week period were \$13.915 billion, up 9.4 percent over sales of \$12.720 billion in the same four-week period in the prior year. The Division's sales for the thirty-nine weeks of \$135.973 billion were up 10.0 percent over \$123.578 billion in the similar prior-year period.

SAM'S CLUB sales for the four-week period were \$2.816 billion, up 6.8 percent over sales of \$2.637 billion in the same four-week period in the prior year. Club sales for the thirty-nine weeks of \$27.052 billion were up 8.3 percent over the \$24.980 billion in the similar prior-year period.

The International Division's sales for the four-week period were \$4.311 billion, up 16.2 percent over sales of \$3.709 billion in the same four-week period in the prior year. The Division's sales for the thirty-nine weeks of \$40.020 billion were up 18.6 percent over the \$33.754 billion in the similar prior-year period.

Comparable sales for the periods ending October 29, 2004 and October 31, 2003, were as follows:

	4 Weeks		39 Weeks	
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year
Wal-Mart	<b>2.4 %</b>	4.0 %	<b>3.1 %</b>	3.7 %
SAM'S CLUB	<b>5.0 %</b>	7.0 %	<b>6.9 %</b>	4.6 %
Total U.S.	<b>2.8 %</b>	4.5 %	<b>3.7 %</b>	3.8%

For the November four-week period, we forecast comparative sales for the U.S. to be up in the 2 to 4 percent range.

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Although sales for the quarter were below our original plan, gross margin exceeded our forecast and a change in our effective tax rate resulting primarily from the retroactive renewal of the work opportunity tax credit will result in earnings for the fiscal quarter ended October 31, 2004 coming in at the high end of our forecasted range of \$0.52 to \$0.54.

Our earnings release for the third fiscal quarter is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 2004 before the NYSE opens. The dial-in number for the earnings call is 402-998-1748 and will be available for 36 hours after quarterly earnings are announced. The information included in this release and the earnings pre-recorded phone call are available on our website at [www.walmartstores.com](http://www.walmartstores.com), news, news releases, sales and summaries.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. operates in all fifty states. Internationally, the Company operates in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South Korea and the United Kingdom. Wal-Mart also owns approximately 37% of The Seiyu, Ltd. ("Seiyu") with warrants to purchase up to approximately 69% of that company by the end of December 2007. Seiyu operates over 400 stores located throughout Japan.

The Company's securities are listed on the New York and Pacific stock exchanges under the symbol WMT. Last year, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., contributed more than \$150 million to support communities and local non-profit organizations. Customers and associates raised an additional \$70 million at Stores and Clubs. View additional information about the Company on our website at [www.walmartstores.com](http://www.walmartstores.com) or shop with us on-line at [www.walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com) and [www.samsclub.com](http://www.samsclub.com).

This release contains statements that Wal-Mart believes are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that are intended to enjoy the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements provided by that Act. These forward-looking statements, which discuss our management's forecast of comparable sales for the November four-week period and our management's forecast of earnings for our quarter ended October 31, 2004, appear in the two paragraphs immediately following the comparable sales table in this release. They are identified by use of the words "forecast" and "will result." These forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, domestically and internationally, including, consumer spending patterns and debt levels, weather conditions, competitive pressures, currency exchange fluctuations, trade restrictions, and other risks. We discuss certain of these matters more fully in our filings with the SEC, including our last Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC. This release should be read in conjunction with that Annual Report on Form 10-K and our other filings with the SEC through the date of this report. We urge you to consider all of these risks, uncertainties and other factors carefully in evaluating the forward-looking statements. As a result of these matters, including changes in facts, assumptions not being realized or other circumstances, our actual comparable sales for the November four-week period and our earnings for the quarter ended October 31, 2004 may differ materially from forecast comparable sales and forecast earnings discussed in the forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements included in this release are made only as of the date of this report, and we undertake no obligation to update the forward-looking statements to reflect subsequent events or circumstances.

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